

70 Greens Place  
South Shields  
NE33 2AQ

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

### **Inappropriate Development on River Drive**

Dear Mr Mansbridge,

I wrote to you on 4<sup>th</sup> April requesting that the work on the slipway shed on River Drive be stopped.

As an introduction I said:- "It is a month since I sent Mr Atkinson an email on behalf of the residents affected by the redevelopment of the UK Docks site on River Drive and I have not received a satisfactory reply to the request that STC Planning Office meet with the residents to explain their action or rather lack of it over the slipway shed on River Drive. I am writing to you as I know Mr Atkinson is away and I know that you have been corresponding with another dissatisfied resident."

After attempting to fill in some detail I finished by saying:- "I ask again that the working at UK Docks Slipway on River Drive be stopped until this issue is resolved."

The slipway is back in use again with the with the arrival of the North Shields Ferry and I am writing to ask you if you have written as intended and here I quote the second to last paragraph in your letter (the attachment) to Mr D Routledge dated 4<sup>th</sup> April:- "It is my intention to write formally to the operator instructing them that all operational works within the shelter should cease with immediate effect until such a time as the end panels are installed"

I will also ask at the same time that you do not refer this letter to one of your staff to raise a stage 1 complaint on my behalf. I understand you did this with my email of the 4<sup>th</sup> April which I take to be an abuse of the complaints procedure. If you had taken some care with the response to my email you will have seen that:-

- 1) in an email from your Principle Planning Officer, Mr Cunningham, dated 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014:- "May I therefore suggest that you speak with the Chair of the residents group in respect of the points that you have raised below, as these have already been discussed and explained. If you are still not satisfied with the Council's response then you should use the Council's complaints procedure which has 3 stages."
- 2) in an email from your Planning Manager, Mr Atkinson, dated 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014:- "I can only suggest that if you do wish to pursue this matter further you ask that my Head of Service, George Mansbridge, responds to any remaining points you may have formally under stage 2 of the Council's complaints procedure. You will have to write to him and say specifically what you remain unhappy about."

If I had followed the suggestions by these officers there would have been no admission by the planning office that the slipway shed on River Drive had not been built to plan and it ill behoves you to refer my email to the formal complaints procedure as well.

Work continues in the slipway shed as I write this so if you have not written to the operator to stop, as you intended to, then please do so.

Yours sincerely

Michael Dawson

cc M Todd  
D Routledge